



# SEC Release Consultation on the November 2024 Testing Approach Document

Your chance to comment on the draft Testing Approach  
Document for the November 2024 SEC Release

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**Classification:** DCC Public

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# 1. Introduction and context

1. The Data Communications Company (DCC) is Britain's digital energy spine, supporting the transformation of the energy system. DCC is licensed by the Government and regulated by the energy regulator Ofgem to connect smart meters in homes and small businesses across Great Britain to a single secure, digital network. DCC supports the roll-out of second-generation (SMETS2) smart meters, as well as the migration of existing first-generation (SMETS1) meters onto our network.
2. The Smart Energy Code (SEC) is the agreement that defines the rights of parties involved in the management of smart metering in Great Britain. Changes to the SEC are managed via the SEC Modification Process and then implemented as part of a SEC Release. There are three scheduled SEC Releases a year: February, June and November, the latter two can impact DCC Systems.

## 1.1. Background

3. Under SEC Section D10.18, DCC has an obligation to produce a SEC Release Testing Approach Document (TAD) which defines the approach to testing changes to DCC systems arising from a SEC Release. The draft November 2024 TAD published alongside this document has been produced to satisfy the requirements set out in SEC Sections D10.18 – D10.20.
4. The draft TAD defines the approach to testing to be undertaken by both DCC and Testing Participants. It sets out:
  - the testing objectives for that release, including the assurance to be achieved;
  - the testing strategy that will be followed; and
  - any requirements to undertake DCC User testing, along with how DCC will support Testing Participants to undertake testing.
5. The draft November 2024 TAD has also been shared with the Testing Advisory Group (TAG) to be considered at the 24 April 2024 TAG meeting. Any feedback provided by the TAG or through this consultation will be considered and any amendments will be made prior to seeking approval of the November 2024 TAD from the TAG in April 2024.

## 1.2. Purpose of the consultation

6. The purpose of this consultation is to invite views on the draft November 2024 TAD prior to seeking approval from the TAG and publishing a final version.
7. This consultation is expected to impact Large and Small Supplier and Other SEC Parties.
8. This consultation will close on 11 April 2024 at 17:00.

# 2. Scope of SEC Release

## 2.1. Approved Modification Proposals (DCC Systems impacting)

9. The following DCC System impacting modifications have been approved for inclusion in the November 2024 SEC Release:
  - SECMP0028 'Prioritising System Messages'. The DCC change reference for this SEC modification is CR4749.

## 2.2. Non-System Impacting Modification Proposals

10. There are currently no non-system impacting modifications approved for inclusion in the November 2024 SEC Release. Any further targeted modifications that do not impact DCC systems will be added to the scope of this release by the Change Sub-Committee (CSC) if those modifications are approved. For the avoidance of doubt, these modifications will not require updates to the TAD.

## 2.3. DCC Change Requests

11. There is one Change Request (CR) to be implemented alongside the November 2024 SEC Release:
- CR5185 DSP's motorway expansion (originally part of CR4879).
12. The testing approach for CR5185 is set out in the November 2024 SEC Release TAD.
13. Additional Note: CR4879 (MHHS SMETS1 data cache and scheduling SRV4.2) is planned to be delivered alongside the same timelines for the November 24 SEC Release. This will be captured and consulted on within a separate TAD. CR4879 is not dependent on the November 24 SEC Release. It will be progressed under a separate Approach to Testing (AtT) that will be presented to TAG for approval in April 2024. Recognising the need to maintain quality across these two releases, the standard SEC Release testing issues threshold has been assigned across the two releases.

## 3. Overall Testing Approach

14. The DCC Service Providers in scope for the November 2024 SEC Release are the DCC, Data Service Provider (DSP) and Communications Service Providers (CSPs), SMETS1 Service Providers (S1SPs) and Dual Control Organisation (DCO).
15. The approach to testing of the November 2024 SEC Release will include several defined test phases which will be conducted sequentially. Test phases will be undertaken in appropriate test environments.
16. The Pre-Integration Test (PIT) phase covers individual testing by DCC Service Providers and includes Factory Acceptance Testing (FAT).
17. The Systems Integration Testing (SIT) phase covers the end-to-end functionality with devices (or emulators where not available) and will include solution testing by DCC service providers collectively.
18. DCC will provide a User Integration Testing (UIT) service that allows each User to test the interoperability of its User Systems with the modified DCC Total Systems and to simultaneously test the interoperability of User Systems and Devices with the modified DCC Total Systems. The UIT environment shall be made available in accordance with SEC Appendix J (Enduring Test Approach Document (ETAD)).
19. Each test phase will be subject to defined test scenarios where appropriate, with business scenarios to be used as the basis of testing. The documentation supporting each test phase will specify the detailed testing to be employed during that test phase. Test scenarios may, within the context of the individual test phases, be represented by defined sequences of Service Requests or other relevant activities.

**Q1**

Do you support the overall approach and scope of the draft November 2024 Testing Approach Document? Please provide rationale for your views.

Q2

Do you have any other comments on the draft November 2024 Testing Approach Document? Please provide details and rationale for your views.

## 4. Next steps

20. This consultation will close at 17:00 on 11 April 2024.
21. Following the closure of this consultation, DCC will consider TAG comments and respondents' views. DCC will amend the November 2024 TAD as appropriate and will submit an amended version of the TAD to the TAG for its review and explicit approval in April 2024.

## 5. How to Respond

Please provide responses by 17:00 on 11 April 2024 to DCC at [consultations@smartdcc.co.uk](mailto:consultations@smartdcc.co.uk).

Consultation responses may be published on our website [www.smartdcc.co.uk](http://www.smartdcc.co.uk). Please state clearly in writing whether you want all or any part, of your consultation to be treated as confidential. It would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. Please note that responses in their entirety (including any text marked confidential) may be made available to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (The Department) and the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority). Information provided to The Department or the Authority, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information legislation (primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004). If The Department or the Authority receive a request for disclosure of the information, we/they will take full account of your explanation (to the extent provided to them), but we/they cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded by us as a confidentiality request.

If you have any questions about the consultation documents, please contact DCC via [consultations@smartdcc.co.uk](mailto:consultations@smartdcc.co.uk).

## 6. Attachments

- Attachment 1: November 24 SEC Release Testing Approach Document v1.0
- Attachment 2: November 24 SEC Release TAD Response Template